

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which I currently do not receive.

I currently have the capabilities to access the internet via broadband, but the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing an AFFORDABLE high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite. And hopefully, drive down the price of our (as far as I know) only choice for boardband DSL internet access.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Dannie Johnston
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Eggleston, VA 24086